

SECTION 6

NATURAL RESOURCES

WATER RESOURCES

Goal 6.A: To protect and enhance the natural qualities of Placer County's streams, creeks and groundwater.

Policies

- 6.A.1. The County shall require the provision of sensitive habitat buffers which shall, at a minimum, be measured as follows: 100 feet from the centerline of perennial streams, 50 feet from centerline of intermittent streams, and 50 feet from the edge of sensitive habitats to be protected including riparian zones, wetlands, old growth woodlands, and the habitat of rare, threatened or endangered species (see discussion of sensitive habitat buffers in Part I of this Policy Document). Based on more detailed information supplied as a part of the review for a specific project, the County may determine that such setbacks are not applicable in a particular instance or should be modified based on the new information provided. The County may, however, allow exceptions, such as in the following cases:
- a. Reasonable use of the property would otherwise be denied;
 - b. The location is necessary to avoid or mitigate hazards to the public;
 - c. The location is necessary for the repair of roads, bridges, trails, or similar infrastructure; or
 - d. The location is necessary for the construction of new roads, bridges, trails, or similar infrastructure where the County determines there is no feasible alternative and the project has minimized environmental impacts through project design and infrastructure placement.
- 6.A.2. The County shall require all development in the 100-year floodplain to comply with the provisions of the Placer County Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance.
- 6.A.3. The County shall require development projects proposing to encroach into a creek corridor or creek setback to do one or more of the following, in descending order of desirability:
- a. Avoid the disturbance of riparian vegetation;
 - b. Replace riparian vegetation (on-site, in-kind);
 - c. Restore another section of creek (in-kind); and/or
 - d. Pay a mitigation fee for restoration elsewhere (e.g., wetland mitigation banking program).
- 6.A.4. Where creek protection is required or proposed, the County should require public and private development to:
- a. Preserve creek corridors and creek setback areas through easements or dedications. Parcel lines (in the case of a subdivision) or easements (in the case of a subdivision or other development) shall be located to optimize resource protection. If a creek is proposed to be included within an open space parcel or easement, allowed uses and maintenance responsibilities within that parcel or easement should be clearly defined and conditioned prior to map or project approval;
 - b. Designate such easement or dedication areas (as described in a. above) as open space;
 - c. Protect creek corridors and their habitat value by actions such as: 1) providing an adequate creek setback, 2) maintaining creek corridors in an essentially natural state, 3) employing creek restoration techniques where restoration is needed to achieve a natural creek corridor,

- 4) utilizing riparian vegetation within creek corridors, and where possible, within creek setback areas, 5) prohibiting the planting of invasive, non-native plants (such as vinca major and eucalyptus) within creek corridors or creek setbacks, and 6) avoiding tree removal within creek corridors;
 - d. Provide recreation and public access near creeks consistent with other General Plan policies;
 - e. Use design, construction, and maintenance techniques that ensure development near a creek will not cause or worsen natural hazards (such as erosion, sedimentation, flooding, or water pollution) and will include erosion and sediment control practices such as: 1) turbidity screens and other management practices, which shall be used as necessary to minimize siltation, sedimentation, and erosion, and shall be left in place until disturbed areas; and/or are stabilized with permanent vegetation that will prevent the transport of sediment off site; and 2) temporary vegetation sufficient to stabilize disturbed areas.
 - f. Provide for long-term creek corridor maintenance by providing a guaranteed financial commitment to the County which accounts for all anticipated maintenance activities.
- 6.A.5. The County shall continue to require the use of feasible and practical best management practices (BMPs) to protect streams from the adverse effects of construction activities and urban runoff and to encourage the use of BMPs for agricultural activities.
- 6.A.6. The County shall require that natural watercourses are integrated into new development in such a way that they are accessible to the public and provide a positive visual element.
- 6.A.7. The County shall discourage grading activities during the rainy season, unless adequately mitigated, to avoid sedimentation of creeks and damage to riparian habitat.
- 6.A.8. Where the stream environment zone has previously been modified by channelization, fill, or other human activity, the County shall require project proponents to restore such areas by means of landscaping, revegetation, or similar stabilization techniques as a part of development activities.
- 6.A.9. The County shall require that newly-created parcels include adequate space outside of watercourses' setback areas to ensure that property owners will not place improvements (e.g., pools, patios, and appurtenant structures), within areas that require protection.
- 6.A.10. The County shall protect groundwater resources from contamination and further overdraft by pursuing the following efforts:
- a. Identifying and controlling sources of potential contamination;
 - b. Protecting important groundwater recharge areas;
 - c. Encouraging the use of surface water to supply major municipal and industrial consumptive demands;
 - d. Encouraging the use of treated wastewater for groundwater recharge; and
 - e. Supporting major consumptive use of groundwater aquifer(s) in the western part of the County only where it can be demonstrated that this use does not exceed safe yield and is appropriately balanced with surface water supply to the same area.

[See also policies/programs under Goal 4.E.; Stormwater Drainage; and Goal 4. F., Flood Protection.]

- 6.A.11. Open space located in watersheds which serve reservoirs is important to the adequate performance of those reservoirs for their intended purposes and should be preserved and protected.

The watershed is defined as those lands draining into a reservoir and having an immediate effect upon the quality of water within that reservoir. Those lands located within the watershed and

within 5,000 feet of the reservoir shall be considered as having an immediate effect.

Following are key watersheds labeled "immediate," because of their current domestic usage and proximity to urban areas and "future," because of current non-domestic usage and/or distance from urban areas.

Immediate

Folsom Lake Watershed
 Combie Lake Watershed
 Rock Creek Reservoir
 Rollins Lake
 Camp Far West Reservoir

Future

Sugarpine Reservoir
 Lake Spaulding
 (Future) Auburn Lake
 French Meadows Reservoir
 Hell Hole Reservoir
 (Future) Garden Bar Reservoir

- 6.A.12. The County shall encourage the protection of floodplain lands and where appropriate, acquire public easements for purposes of flood protection, public safety, wildlife preservation, groundwater recharge, access and recreation.

Implementation Programs

- 6.1. In consultation with the Placer County Flood Control District, cities in the County, and downstream counties, the County shall develop guidelines for creek maintenance practices that ensure native vegetation is not removed unnecessarily. These guidelines should also ensure that maintenance is scheduled to minimize disruption of wildlife breeding practices.

Responsibility: Flood Control District
 Resource Conservation District
 Planning Department
 Open Space Committee
 Time Frame: FY 94-95
 Funding: General Fund

- 6.2. The County shall inform the public and prospective developers about those sections of the California Fish and Game Code that apply to diversion or obstruction of stream channels and pollution of waterways with detrimental material. This shall be done through distribution of educational materials with building permits and as a part of project review.

Responsibility: Planning Department
 Building Department
 Time Frame: Ongoing
 Funding: Permit fees

- 6.3. The County shall cooperate with interested state agencies and private conservation organizations to provide public interpretative services at select locations on County-owned or -managed property that contains creek resources to increase public knowledge and appreciation of such resources.

Responsibility: Parks Division
 Time Frame: Ongoing
 Funding: General Fund

- 6.4. The County shall prepare, adopt, and implement a comprehensive surface and groundwater management program to ensure the long-term protection and maintenance of surface and groundwater resources. This water management program shall include at least the following elements:
- a. County leadership of the process and a commitment to its integrity and inclusiveness;
 - b. Coordination and cooperation with other public and private agencies, organizations, and groups that have an interest in water resources management in the County or surrounding areas. This should include, but not be limited to the following agencies and organizations:
 - 1. The cities of Roseville, Rocklin, Loomis, Lincoln, Auburn, and Colfax;
 - 2. The counties of Nevada, Yuba, Sutter, Sacramento and El Dorado;
 - 3. California Department of Water Resources (DWR);
 - 4. State Water Quality Control Board (SWQCB) and the affected regional boards;
 - 5. Local irrigation, water supply, and public utilities districts;
 - 6. The Placer County Flood Control District, Placer County Water Agency, and other water resource management special districts;
 - 7. The California Farm Bureau and other agricultural water supply and management interest groups;
 - 8. Pacific Gas and Electric and other private hydroelectric and water supply utilities;
 - 9. U.S. Forest Service--Tahoe and El Dorado National Forests (USFS);
 - 10. Bureau of Reclamation;
 - 11. Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA);
 - 12. California Department of Fish and Game (DFG);
 - 13. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS);
 - 14. California Groundwater Association and other private, professional groups interested in water supply protection;
 - 15. Academic and scientific groups; and
 - 16. Any other agencies, organizations, and groups that the County selects to add needed expertise or breadth to the water resource management process.
 - c. An inventory of water supply and quality information and demand estimates, using as much available information as possible, with the objective of creating an easily accessible, comprehensive, and regularly updated database that can be shared by water management agencies;
 - d. Identification, documentation, and prioritization of the most significant water supply sources and pressing local water quality management problems;
 - e. Identification of existing ongoing water management and regulatory policies, programs, and standards by the various agencies and organizations with an interest in water resources management;
 - f. Recognition and incorporation of ongoing compatible water management efforts into a comprehensive approach to water resources management to implement the goals and policies of this General Plan;
 - g. Identification of any regulatory or policy "gaps" that can and should be addressed by the County;
 - h. Application of sound water resources management principles, including watershed land use management, wetlands and vegetation management, non-point source pollution control, waste disposal monitoring and controls, groundwater recharge, and aquifer protection;
 - i. Application of sustainable multiple-use water management principles and incorporation of diverse and potentially compatible land use objectives, including provision of open space and recreation opportunities, watershed and habitat protection, flood control, and water provision to meet future agricultural, ecological, and community development needs; and

- j. Utilization of innovative and alternative funding mechanisms from sources outside of the County.

Responsibility: Environmental Health Department
 Planning Department
 Public Works Department
 Time Frame: FY 2002 and beyond
 Funding: Cooperative MOU with other agencies
 Private Grants
 Impact Fees
 General Fund

WETLAND AND RIPARIAN AREAS

Goal 6.B: To protect wetland communities and related riparian areas throughout Placer County as valuable resources.

Policies

- 6.B.1. The County shall support the "no net loss" policy for wetland areas regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the California Department of Fish and Game. Coordination with these agencies at all levels of project review shall continue to ensure that appropriate mitigation measures and the concerns of these agencies are adequately addressed.
- 6.B.2. The County shall require new development to mitigate wetland loss in both regulated and non-regulated wetlands to achieve "no net loss" through any combination of the following, in descending order of desirability: (1) avoidance; (2) where avoidance is not possible, minimization of impacts on the resource; or (3) compensation, including use of a mitigation banking program that provides the opportunity to mitigate impacts to rare, threatened, and endangered species and/or the habitat which supports these species in wetland and riparian areas.
- 6.B.3. The County shall discourage direct runoff of pollutants and siltation into wetland areas from outfalls serving nearby urban development. Development shall be designed in such a manner that pollutants and siltation will not significantly adversely affect the value or function of wetlands.
- 6.B.4. The County shall strive to identify and conserve remaining upland habitat areas adjacent to wetlands and riparian areas that are critical to the survival and nesting of wetland and riparian species.
- 6.B.5. The County shall require development that may affect a wetland to employ avoidance, minimization, and/or compensatory mitigation techniques. In evaluating the level of compensation to be required with respect to any given project, (a) on-site mitigation shall be preferred to off-site, and in-kind mitigation shall be preferred to out-of-kind; (b) functional replacement ratios may vary to the extent necessary to incorporate a margin of safety reflecting the expected degree of success associated with the mitigation plan; and (c) acreage replacement ratios may vary depending on the relative functions and values of those wetlands being lost and those being supplied, including compensation for temporal losses. The County shall continue to implement and refine criteria for determining when an alteration to a wetland is considered a less-than-significant impact under CEQA.

Implementation Programs

- 6.5. The County shall work toward the public acquisition of creek corridors, wetlands, and significant ecological resource areas as public open space where such areas cannot be effectively preserved through the regulatory process. Public protection may take the form of fee acquisition or protective easements and may be carried out in cooperation with other local, state, and federal agencies and private entities. Acquisition should include provisions for maintenance and management in perpetuity.

Responsibility: Parks Division
Planning Department
Time Frame: Ongoing
Funding: Mitigation fees
State and federal grants

- 6.6. The County shall consider establishing a resource conservation zone (RCZ) overlay district for application to creek corridors, wetlands, and areas rich in wildlife or of a fragile ecological nature. The program would assist in preserving the natural and social values of significant resources and preserve areas with special environmental significance and high sensitivity to development.

Responsibility: Planning Department
Time Frame: FY 95-96
Funding: General Fund

- 6.7. The County will establish a wetland mitigation banking program, including an initial pilot project site for evaluation of the program. The program will provide opportunities for off-site mitigation of wetland impacts through the purchase of mitigation "credits" at established mitigation bank sites.

Responsibility: Planning Department
Time Frame: FY 94-95
Funding: Federal grant
Mitigation fees
General Fund

FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT

- Goal 6.C:** To protect, restore, and enhance habitats that support fish and wildlife species so as to maintain populations at viable levels.

Policies

- 6.C.1. The County shall identify and protect significant ecological resource areas and other unique wildlife habitats critical to protecting and sustaining wildlife populations. Significant ecological resource areas include the following:
- a. Wetland areas including vernal pools.
 - b. Stream environment zones.
 - c. Any habitat for rare, threatened or endangered animals or plants.
 - d. Critical deer winter ranges (winter and summer), migratory routes and fawning habitat.
 - e. Large areas of non-fragmented natural habitat, including Blue Oak Woodlands, Valley

- Foothill Riparian, vernal pool habitat.
- f. Identifiable wildlife movement zones, including but not limited to, non-fragmented stream environment zones, avian and mammalian migratory routes, and known concentration areas of waterfowl within the Pacific Flyway.
 - g. Important spawning areas for anadromous fish.
- 6.C.2. The County shall require development in areas known to have particular value for wildlife to be carefully planned and, where possible, located so that the reasonable value of the habitat for wildlife is maintained.
- 6.C.3. The County shall encourage the control of residual pesticides to prevent potential damage to water quality, vegetation, and wildlife.
- 6.C.4. The County shall encourage private landowners to adopt sound wildlife habitat management practices, as recommended by California Department of Fish and Game officials, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Placer County Resource Conservation District.
- 6.C.5. The County shall require mitigation for development projects where isolated segments of stream habitat are unavoidably altered. Such impacts should be mitigated on-site with in-kind habitat replacement or elsewhere in the stream system through stream or riparian habitat restoration work.
- 6.C.6. The County shall support preservation of the habitats of rare, threatened, endangered, and/or other special status species. Federal and state agencies, as well as other resource conservation organizations, shall be encouraged to acquire and manage endangered species' habitats.
- 6.C.7. The County shall support the maintenance of suitable habitats for all indigenous species of wildlife, without preference to game or non-game species, through maintenance of habitat diversity.
- 6.C.8. The County shall support the preservation or reestablishment of fisheries in the rivers and streams within the County, whenever possible.
- 6.C.9. The County shall require new private or public developments to preserve and enhance existing native riparian habitat unless public safety concerns require removal of habitat for flood control or other public purposes. In cases where new private or public development results in modification or destruction of riparian habitat for purposes of flood control, the developers shall be responsible for acquiring, restoring, and enhancing at least an equivalent amount of like habitat within or near the project area.
- 6.C.10. The County will use the California Wildlife Habitat Relationships (WHR) system as a standard descriptive tool and guide for environmental assessment in the absence of a more detailed site-specific system.
- 6.C.11. Prior to approval of discretionary development permits involving parcels within a significant ecological resource area, the County shall require, as part of the environmental review process, a biotic resources evaluation of the sites by a wildlife biologist, the evaluation shall be based upon field reconnaissance performed at the appropriate time of year to determine the presence or absence of rare, threatened, or endangered species of plants or animals. Such evaluation will consider the potential for significant impact on these resources, and will identify feasible measures to mitigate such impacts or indicate why mitigation is not feasible. In approving any

such discretionary development permit, the decisionmaking body shall determine the feasibility of the identified mitigation measures.

Significant ecological resource areas shall, at a minimum, include the following:

- a. Wetland areas including vernal pools.
 - b. Stream environment zones.
 - c. Any habitat for rare, threatened or endangered animals or plants.
 - d. Critical deer winter ranges (winter and summer), migratory routes and fawning habitat.
 - e. Large areas of non-fragmented natural habitat, including Blue Oak Woodlands, Valley Foothill Riparian, vernal pool habitat.
 - f. Identifiable wildlife movement zones, including but not limited to, non-fragmented stream environment zones, avian and mammalian migratory routes, and known concentration areas of waterfowl within the Pacific Flyway.
 - g. Important spawning areas for anadromous fish.
- 6.C.12. The County shall cooperate with, encourage, and support the plans of other public agencies to acquire fee title or conservation easements to privately-owned lands in order to preserve important wildlife corridors and to provide habitat protection of California Species of Concern and state or federally listed rare, threatened, or endangered plant and animal species.
- 6.C.13. The County shall support and cooperate with efforts of other local, state, and federal agencies and private entities engaged in the preservation and protection of significant biological resources from incompatible land uses and development. Significant biological resources include endangered, threatened, or rare species and their habitats, wetland habitats, wildlife migration corridors, and locally-important species/communities.
- 6.C.14. The County shall support the management efforts of the California Department of Fish and Game to maintain and enhance the productivity of important fish and game species (such as the Blue Canyon and Loyalton Truckee deer herds) by protecting identified critical habitat for these species from incompatible suburban, rural residential, or recreational development.

Implementation Programs

- 6.8. The County will establish a program to insure public awareness of the benefits of wetland resources. The program will also provide opportunities for the public to participate in the protection, enhancement, and restoration of existing resources.
- 6.9. The County shall initiate a detailed Countywide inventory of ecologically significant resource areas, including unique natural areas, wetland areas, riparian areas, habitats of rare, threatened, endangered, and other uncommon and special-status species. The inventory should be conducted as community plans, specific plans, PUDs, or other planning projects are considered by the County. The inventory should be based on the California Wildlife Habitats Relationships (WHR) system at a scale of 1:24,000 and shall include appropriate buffer zones around the identified resource areas in order to account for periodic, seasonal, or ecological changes. The maps should be revised on a regular basis to reflect the availability of new information from other agencies, changes in definition, or any other changes.

Responsibility:	Planning Department
Time Frame:	FY 94-95; ongoing
Funding:	General Fund

- 6.10. The County shall maintain current maps that indicate the extent of critical habitat for important fish and game species, as these maps are made available by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). The relative importance of these game species shall be determined by the County, in consultation with CDFG, based on relevant ecological, recreational, and economic considerations. These maps shall be used by the County to evaluate proposed community plans, specific plans, and any project development proposals to determine compatibility of development with maintenance and enhancement of important fish and game species.

Responsibility: Planning Department
 Time Frame: Ongoing
 Funding: General Fund

- 6.11. The County shall encourage a cooperative effort to develop, adopt, and implement a comprehensive habitat management plan to address the long-term preservation and maintenance of sufficient natural habitat to support the diversity of plants and wildlife species currently represented in Placer County indefinitely. This habitat management program should include at least the following elements:

- a. County leadership of the process and a commitment to its integrity and inclusiveness;
- b. Provision of more "certainty" and less confrontation in the community development process through a program of habitat preservation and mitigation that would compensate for planned habitat conversion and deterioration;
- c. Coordination and cooperation with other public and private agencies, organizations and groups that have an interest in management of vegetation, fish and wildlife resources in the County or surrounding areas. This should include, but not be limited to the following agencies and organizations:
 1. The cities of Roseville, Rocklin, Loomis, Lincoln, Auburn, and Colfax;
 2. The counties of Nevada, Yuba, Sutter, Sacramento and El Dorado;
 3. California Department of Fish and Game (DFG);
 4. California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF);
 5. U.S. Forest Service--Tahoe and Eldorado National Forests (USFS);
 6. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS);
 7. Bureau of Land Management (BLM);
 8. Bureau of Reclamation;
 9. Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA);
 10. The Placer County Flood Control District and other resource management special districts;
 11. The Placer Land Trust, the Nature Conservancy (TNC), the Sierra Club, the Audubon Society, and other local conservation organizations;
 12. The California Farm Bureau and other resource management interest groups;
 13. The Building Industry Association and other local development interests;
 14. Academic and scientific groups; and
 15. Any other agencies, organizations and groups that the County selects to add needed expertise or breadth to the habitat management planning process.
- d. An inventory of the vegetation, fish, and wildlife resources in the County, using as much available information as possible, with the objective of creating an easily accessible, comprehensive, and regularly updated database that enhances the WHR inventory to be established in Implementation Program 6.8.;
- e. Prioritization of important habitat that supports high diversity and concentrations of special status species, and particularly sensitive and vulnerable habitat that is in immediate danger of

- conversion or fragmentation;
- f. Application of sound conservation biology principles and an emphasis on a multispecies and habitat conservation approach (in contrast with an emphasis on particular species and individuals of any species);
- g. Application of sustainable multiple-use land management principles and incorporation of diverse and potentially compatible land uses objectives, including provision of open space and recreation opportunities, watershed and water quality protection, flood control, and certain development and resource extraction needs;
- h. Application of a multiplicity of land preservation, acquisition and easement techniques, funding mechanisms, and cooperative agreements among participating agencies organizations and groups; and
- i. Recognition and protection of habitat corridors throughout the County and cities, linked to adjacent counties, to provide for wildlife movement, prevent habitat fragmentation and isolation, and to promote individual identity and physical separation between developed communities.

Responsibility: Planning Department
 Time Frame: FY 95-96 to 97-98
 Funding: Cooperative MOU with other agencies
 Private grants
 Impact fees
 General Fund

- 6.12. The County shall establish and maintain a Countywide inventory of the location of oak woodland stands of 40 acres or larger as a component of the WHR Inventory to be established in Implementation Program 6.8. This inventory would include information prepared by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF).

Responsibility: Planning Department
 Time Frame: FY 94-95
 Funding: General Fund

VEGETATION

Goal 6.D: To preserve and protect the valuable vegetation resources of Placer County.

Policies

- 6.D.1. The County shall encourage landowners and developers to preserve the integrity of existing terrain and natural vegetation in visually-sensitive areas such as hillsides, ridges, and along important transportation corridors.
- 6.D.2. The County shall require developers to use native and compatible non-native species, especially drought-resistant species, to the extent possible in fulfilling landscaping requirements imposed as conditions of discretionary permits or for project mitigation.
- 6.D.3. The County shall support the preservation of outstanding areas of natural vegetation, including, but not limited to, oak woodlands, riparian areas, and vernal pools.
- 6.D.4. The County shall ensure that landmark trees and major groves of native trees are preserved and protected. In order to maintain these areas in perpetuity, protected areas shall also include

younger vegetation with suitable space for growth and reproduction.

- 6.D.5. The County shall establish procedures for identifying and preserving rare, threatened, and endangered plant species that may be adversely affected by public or private development projects.
- 6.D.6. The County shall ensure the conservation of sufficiently large, continuous expanses of native vegetation to provide suitable habitat for maintaining abundant and diverse wildlife.
- 6.D.7. The County shall support the management of wetland and riparian plant communities for passive recreation, groundwater recharge, nutrient catchment, and wildlife habitats. Such communities shall be restored or expanded, where possible.
- 6.D.8. The County shall require that new development preserve natural woodlands to the maximum extent possible.
- 6.D.9. The County shall require that development on hillsides be limited to maintain valuable natural vegetation, especially forests and open grasslands, and to control erosion.
- 6.D.10. The County shall encourage the planting of native trees, shrubs, and grasslands in order to preserve the visual integrity of the landscape, provide habitat conditions suitable for native wildlife, and ensure that a maximum number and variety of well-adapted plants are maintained.
- 6.D.11. The County shall support the continued use of prescribed burning to mimic the effects of natural fires to reduce fuel volumes and associated fire hazard to human residents and to enhance the health of biotic communities.
- 6.D.12. The County shall support the retention of heavily vegetated corridors along circulation corridors to preserve their rural character.
- 6.D.13. The County shall support the preservation of native trees and the use of native, drought-tolerant plant materials in all revegetation/landscaping projects.
- 6.D.14. The County shall require that new development avoid, as much as possible, ecologically-fragile areas (e.g., areas of rare or endangered species of plants, riparian areas). Where feasible, these areas should be protected through public acquisition of fee title or conservation easements to ensure protection.

Implementation Programs

- 6.13. The County shall prepare and maintain an updated list of state and federal rare, threatened, and endangered species known or suspected to occur in the County. The following other uncommon or special-status species which occur or may occur in the County should also be included on the list: 1) plant species included in the California Native Plant Society's Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California; 2) species of special concern as designated by California Department of Fish and Game; and 3) California Fully Protected animals as defined by California Fish and Game Code. In addition to updating the list as new information becomes available, the list should be reviewed and amended at least once every two years.

Responsibility: Planning Department
 Time Frame: FY 94-95; every two years thereafter

Funding: General Fund

- 6.14. The County shall develop and maintain a detailed inventory of significant ecological resource areas for use during environmental review to determine potential impacts and monitor cumulative impacts on these resources.

Responsibility: Planning Department
 Time Frame: FY 94-95; ongoing
 Funding: General Fund

OPEN SPACE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Goal 6.E: To preserve and enhance open space lands to maintain the natural resources of the County.

Policies

- 6.E.1. The County shall support the preservation and enhancement of natural land forms, natural vegetation, and natural resources as open space to the maximum extent feasible. The County shall permanently protect, as open space, areas of natural resource value, including wetlands preserves, riparian corridors, woodlands, and floodplains.
- 6.E.2. The County shall require that new development be designed and constructed to preserve the following types of areas and features as open space to the maximum extent feasible:
- a. High erosion hazard areas;
 - b. Scenic and trail corridors;
 - c. Streams, streamside vegetation;
 - d. Wetlands;
 - e. Other significant stands of vegetation;
 - f. Wildlife corridors; and
 - g. Any areas of special ecological significance.
- 6.E.3. The County shall support the maintenance of open space and natural areas that are interconnected and of sufficient size to protect biodiversity, accommodate wildlife movement, and sustain ecosystems.
- 6.E.4. The County shall encourage either private or public ownership and maintenance of open space.
- 6.E.5. The County shall coordinate with local, state, and federal agencies and private organizations to establish visual and physical links among open space areas to form a system that, where appropriate, includes trails. Dedication of easements shall be encouraged, and in many cases, required as lands are developed and built.

Implementation Programs

- 6.14. The County should develop and adopt an ordinance requiring the dedication of open space lands or payment of open space mitigation fees to provide and maintain open space. The ordinance shall further define geographic areas of benefit. Mitigation fees collected within a particular area of benefit are to be spent within that area of benefit.

Responsibility: Planning Department
Time Frame: FY 94-95
Funding: General Fund

AIR QUALITY--GENERAL

Goal 6.F: To protect and improve air quality in Placer County

Policies

- 6.F.1. The County shall cooperate with other agencies to develop a consistent and effective approach to air quality planning and management.
- 6.F.2. The County shall develop mitigation measures to minimize stationary source and area source emissions.
- 6.F.3. The County shall support the Placer County Air Pollution Control District (PCAPCD) in its development of improved ambient air quality monitoring capabilities and the establishment of standards, thresholds, and rules to more adequately address the air quality impacts of new development.
- 6.F.4. The County shall solicit and consider comments from local and regional agencies on proposed projects that may affect regional air quality.
- 6.F.5. The County shall encourage project proponents to consult early in the planning process with the County regarding the applicability of Countywide indirect and areawide source programs and transportation control measures (TCM) programs. Project review shall also address energy-efficient building and site designs and proper storage, use, and disposal of hazardous materials.
- 6.F.6. The County shall require project-level environmental review to include identification of potential air quality impacts and designation of design and other appropriate mitigation measures or offset fees to reduce impacts. The County shall dedicate staff to work with project proponents and other agencies in identifying, ensuring the implementation of, and monitoring the success of mitigation measures.
- 6.F.7. The County shall encourage development to be located and designed to minimize direct and indirect air pollutants.
- 6.F.8. The County shall submit development proposals to the PCAPCD for review and comment in compliance with CEQA prior to consideration by the appropriate decision-making body.
- 6.F.9. In reviewing project applications, the County shall consider alternatives or amendments that reduce emissions of air pollutants.
- 6.F.10. The County may require new development projects to submit an air quality analysis for review and approval. Based on this analysis, the County shall require appropriate mitigation measures consistent with the PCAPCD's 1991 Air Quality Attainment Plan (or updated edition).
- 6.F.11. The County shall apply the buffer standards described on page **Error! Bookmark not defined.** in Part I of this Policy Document and meteorological analyses to provide separation between possible emission/nuisance sources (such as industrial and commercial uses) and residential uses.

Implementation Programs

- 6.16. The County shall coordinate with other local, regional, and state agencies, including the PCAPCD and the California Air Resources Board (ARB), in incorporating regional and County clean air plans into County planning and project review procedures. The County shall also cooperate with the PCAPCD and ARB in the following efforts:

- a. Enforcing the provision of the California and federal Clean Air Acts, state and regional policies, and established standards for air quality;
- b. Establishing monitoring stations to accurately determine the status of carbon monoxide, ozone, nitrogen dioxide, hydrocarbon and PM₁₀ concentrations;
- c. Developing and implementing clean fuel regulations for vehicle fleets; and
- d. Developing consistent procedures and thresholds for evaluating both project-specific and cumulative air quality impacts for proposed projects.

Responsibility: Planning Department
Placer County Air Pollution Control District
Time Frame: Ongoing
Funding: APCD (AB 2766) Fees

- 6.17. The County shall prepare an annual air quality monitoring report. The report shall, within the limits of available information, describe local carbon monoxide, ozone, and PM₁₀ ambient air quality standard violations during the past year. The report shall be submitted to the Board of Supervisors and made available to the public.

Responsibility: Placer County Air Pollution Control District
Time Frame: Annually
Funding: APCD (AB 2766) fees

- 6.18. The County shall work with the PCAPCD to develop minimum project threshold sizes that would trigger requirements for air quality analyses and project mitigation. Those thresholds and mitigation measures shall be incorporated into the 1994 Air Quality Attainment Plan (AQAP). Elevated carbon monoxide concentrations are associated with congested intersections having high traffic volumes. To address this problem, the PCAPCD could require carbon monoxide (CO) modeling and intersection-specific mitigation measures for congested intersections having a level of service of D, E, or F designed to improve these levels of service.

Responsibility: Planning Department
Placer County Air Pollution Control District
Time Frame: FY 94-95
Funding: APCD (AB 2766) fees
General Fund

- 6.19. The County shall encourage the PCAPCD to revise its AQAP as required every three years. For the 1994 AQAP, the County shall ensure that the PCAPCD revises its AQAP to reflect the new population estimates and vehicle travel associated with the updated General Plan. The 1994 AQAP should incorporate additional air quality programs that are not currently in the AQAP to compensate for the increased population and emissions associated with anticipated development.

Responsibility: Planning Department
Placer County Air Pollution Control District
Time Frame: FY 94-95
Funding: APCD (AB 2766) fees
General Fund

- 6.20. The County should ensure that the U.S. EPA, in the preparation of the Federal Implementation Plan (FIP) for the Sacramento Valley Air Basin, uses the General Plan population projections associated with the Placer County portion of the Sacramento Air Basin. The County should also ensure that the PCAPCD and the Sacramento Area Council of Governments use the General Plan population projections associated with the Placer County portion of the Sacramento Air Basin in the preparation of the State Implementation Plan (SIP).

Responsibility: Planning Department
Placer County Air Pollution Control District
Time Frame: FY 94-95
Funding: APCD (AB 2766) fees
General Fund

- 6.21. The County shall explore alternative financing mechanisms for local air quality improvement programs. The County shall also examine whether grants are available to establish an air quality monitoring program. In addition, the County shall develop a methodology providing project proponent funding or roadway improvements that equitably recovers the costs of those improvements.

Responsibility: Placer County Air Pollution Control District
Time Frame: Ongoing
Funding: APCD (AB 2766) Fees

- 6.22. In consultation with the PCAPCD, cities and special districts, transit providers, and major employers in Placer County, the County shall adopt a program to encourage the widespread use of clean fuels. This program shall include the following components:

- a. Encouraging the PCAPCD to implement a clean fuels fleet rule;
- b. Vigorously pursuing replacement of existing County vehicles that burn gasoline and diesel fuel with vehicles that use clean fuels including, but not limited to, methanol, compressed natural gas (CNG), liquified petroleum gas (LPG), and electric batteries;
- c. Encouraging existing fueling stations in the County to provide clean fuels such as methanol and LPG; and
- d. Encouraging bus service companies based in Placer County to use clean fuel buses in their daily operations.

Responsibility: Public Works Department
Facility Services Department
County Executive Office

Board of Supervisors
Time Frame: FY 94-95; ongoing
Funding: General Fund

AIR QUALITY--TRANSPORTATION/CIRCULATION

Goal 6.G: To integrate air quality planning with the land use and transportation planning process.

Policies

- 6.G.1. The County shall require new development to be planned to result in smooth flowing traffic conditions for major roadways. This includes traffic signals and traffic signal coordination, parallel roadways, and intra- and inter-neighborhood connections where significant reductions in overall emissions can be achieved.
- 6.G.2. The County shall continue and, where appropriate, expand the use of synchronized traffic signals on roadways susceptible to emissions improvement through approach control.
- 6.G.3. The County shall encourage the use of alternative modes of transportation by incorporating public transit, bicycle, and pedestrian modes in County transportation planning and by requiring new development to provide adequate pedestrian and bikeway facilities.
- 6.G.4. The County shall consider instituting disincentives for single-occupant vehicle trips, including limitations in parking supply in areas where alternative transportation modes are available and other measures identified by the Placer County Air Pollution Control District and incorporated into regional plans.
- 6.G.5. The County shall endeavor to secure adequate funding for transit services so that transit is a viable transportation alternative. New development shall pay its fair share of the cost of transit equipment and facilities required to serve new projects.
- 6.G.6. The County shall require large new developments to dedicate land for and construct appropriate improvements for park-and-ride lots, if suitably located.
- 6.G.7. The County shall require stationary-source projects that generate significant amounts of air pollutants to incorporate air quality mitigation in their design.

[See also policies/programs under Goal 3.D., Non-Motorized Transportation.]